

August 25, 1914

DEATH OF MRS. RIFENBARK

Seldom has this community been so terribly shocked as it was last Sunday afternoon when the news was passed along that Edna Streeter Rifenbark had passed away. The lady was known to be in ill health; it was known that for a time during the summer she had been treated at an Aberdeen hospital; but, as is usual, the vitality of youth was expected to assert its power in a way to re-establish health and strength. But such was not to be, and the family and friends are now bearing the weight of unspeakable grief.

Born here, reared from infancy to womanhood amid home surroundings which she ever graced, passing thru our schools and completing the Huron College course, becoming a bride one short year ago, it seems almost incredible and unbearable that the icy hand of death should claim a life so young and full of promise.

That the year she spent as the wife of Prof. Rifenbark at White Lake, was a happy one, was evidenced by a joyous spirit and by apparently ideal health upon her return to Groton for the summer vacation.

As her illness developed, all that loving hands could do seemed powerless. As a last desperate measure, an operation was performed last Sunday morning. But the vital spark was too low, and she passed away shortly after noon.

A distressing fact, was the impossibility of getting into communication with her husband on Sunday. Prof. Rifenbark had gone to White Lake on Friday, as he had some very important work there in preparation for the opening of the school year, and signs of improvement in her condition, seemed to make it safe for him to leave. As there is little Sunday telephone or telegraph communication with that part of the state he could not be informed until late Sunday afternoon, and he reached Groton Monday morning.

Funeral services will be held at the Streeter home at three o'clock this afternoon.

The deepest sympathy of all is felt for the stricken relatives as they face the future with their crushing grief.